

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 40-55 are pending in this application. Claims 42 and 48 have been amended to correct minor typographical errors, and no claims have been added. The amendments to claims 42 and 48 are not narrowing amendments for the purpose of patentability.


In the Office Action dated March 27, 2001, claims 40-55 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, on the grounds that these claims have subject matter that was not described in the specification in such a way to reasonably convey that the inventors had possession of the claimed invention at the time the application was filed. In particular, the Examiner asserts that these claims introduce new matter because claim 40 recites a frame and a bowl leveler for leveling the process bowl relative to the frame, and claim 47 includes a bowl leveler as well.

Claims 40 and 47 are fully supported by the originally filed specification under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Referring to Figure 3, for example, the process fluid reservoir 604 is mounted within the processing module 20 by attaching it to the module *frame or chassis* 606. (Page 12, lines 4 and 5.) Additionally, referring to Figure 8, a plating chamber assembly 603 is provided with levelers 640 (only one of which is shown in this view). The levelers 640 adjust the position of the bowl relative to the frame. The levelers 640 may be jack screws threaded within the edge of a module deck plate 666 and in contact with the process module frame 606 to adjust the height of the process bowl assembly 603 relative to the process module 20. The process bowl assembly 603 can include three such levelers distributed about the periphery of the bowl to adjust the height of the bowl in both the x and y axes. The levelers are provided to ensure that the process fluid flows evenly over the weir and into the annular gap between the cup and the bowl. (Page 17, line 19, to page 18, line 14.) The figures and text of the originally filed application accordingly provide complete support for the subject matter of claims 40 and 47. Thus, this rejection should be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, the pending claims comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112 and patentably define over the prior art. A Notice of Allowance, therefore, is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call Paul Parker at 206-287-3258.

Respectfully submitted,
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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

42. (Amended) The workpiece processing apparatus of claim 40 where-in the bowl leveler comprises first, second and third adjustment mechanisms disposed peripherally about the process bowl.

48. (Amended) The reactor of claim 47 wherein the process base further comprises a process bowl, the fluid cup being disposed within the process bowl and defining a fluid flow region between an outer sidewall of all the fluid cup and an inner sidewall of the process bowl, the fluid cup including an outer rim forming the weir.